



# *Prophets of a Future Not Our Own*

**Leader I:** It helps now and then to step back and take a long view. The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a small fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the Church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

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**Leader II:** This is what we are about: We plant the seeds...  
**All:** that will one day grow.

**Leader II:** We water seeds already planted...  
**All:** knowing that they hold future promise.

**Leader II:** We lay foundations...  
**All:** that will need further development.

**Leader II:** We provide yeast...  
**All:** that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

**Leader II:** We cannot do everything...  
**All:** and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

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**All:** This enables us to do something...  
**Leader II:** and to do it well.

**All:** It may be incomplete...  
**Leader II:** but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

**All:** We may never see the end results...  
**Leader II:** but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

**All:** We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.  
We are prophets of a future not our own. Amen.

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*Bishop Ken Untener*

**Leader I:** Generous God, help us to work to give you glory and praise in all that we do. Gift us with patience, openness and wisdom so that we may allow your Holy Spirit to work through us. Help us to recognize and cherish the fruit from the seeds we have planted. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

*Prayer setting: Laurie Whitfield*